



# Lady Death

## Story So Far

Lady Death is ever a woman of contradictions, and with good reason: The blood of both angels and demons flow through her veins. How did a lonely girl from the middle ages become LADY DEATH, the ravishing seductress of the netherworld?

Lady Death began her existence as Hope, daughter of the demonic feudal lord Matthias. But due to her Father's demonic actions, she was sentenced to burn at the stake by the local townspeople. With no other recourse, she renounced her humanity, believing she would be delivered from a heinous fate. But in truth, it was to Hell she traveled, to live among the eternally damned.

In Hell, she encountered Lucifer. He wanted to give her great power and revealed that in Hell desire equals power. She refused him.

Matthias himself was in Hell and led an army against Lucifer. Meanwhile, Lucifer's lesson was not lost on Hope. She decided to take control and fight Matthias. Matthias bested Lucifer in battle and absorbed his considerable might. Then he learned Hope existed. His first official act as lord of Hell - he would destroy her!

Unshaken by the swarming armies approaching her, Hope marched forward as LADY DEATH to murder Matthias. But it was revealed that they were pawns to the father of evil, Lucifer. Lady Death learned that her life was a game meant for Lucifer's amusement. He wanted to corrupt a child of light and make her a child of darkness.

Hope defeated Lucifer by recalling Lucifer's lesson. He had made her too well. There was nothing she desired more than Lucifer's death. He cursed her. "As long as the living walk, you can never return to earth," he proclaimed. Lady Death's reply: "If the living must die, then they will die!" And with her new vast abilities, she transformed Hell into the Endless Graveyard.

Four hundred years later, Lady Death was on her way to achieving her goal of ending all life on earth, using her earthly emissary, Evil Ernie.

While battling Purgatori, the vampiric Goddess of Judgment, She learned that Lucifer's soul was not trapped within her. It never was. With his secret exposed, Lucifer ended his eons-long subterfuge and revealed himself. He divulged that her reign in the Endless Graveyard - and in fact, her entire life - had been a grand manipulation! Tired of fighting, Lady Death surrendered to the ways of Hell and became Lady Demon. A child of complete darkness. Finally, Lucifer was satisfied.

Lady Demon was lured into the wilds of Hell. There she encountered the imprisoned soul of her mother, Marion. Marion pleaded with Lady Death to absorb her angelic energy and use it to defeat Lucifer - or die trying. Reluctantly, she agreed.

In an epic battle, Lady Death fought Lucifer, but the angelic energies were not enough. Finally, she managed to kick Lucifer into Heaven's Gate, where only those worthy may pass. Against all odds, Lady Death truly defeated Lucifer and was controller of her own destiny.

Hell's denizens insisted that Lucifer's disappearance signaled the commencement of "The Judgment Era of The Fallen Angels."

Craving "home" and severely weakened, Lady Death journeyed to see if Lucifer's curse remained. But before she could test it, she was banished into The Unknown - an aspect of the Nexus of All Things where all theologies clash.

Recently, Lady Death was brought to Earth by Evil Ernie. She learned that Lucifer's curse indeed remained. Now back drifting in The Unknown, Lady Death wonders: "What is my destiny and will I ever find home again?"

# Lady Death®

"The Odyssey" part 1 (of 4): "Crossroads"



Creator/Writer	Brian Pulido
Illustrator	Steven Hughes
Colorist	Jason Jensen
Letterer	Color Monkey, Inc.

President/Publisher	Brian Pulido
Vice President	Francisca Pulido
Managing Editor	Diane Martin
Graphic Designer	Mike Flippin
Distribution/Licensing	Kelly Jensen
Retail Contact	Marja van de Weerd
Chaos! Logo	Brian Pulido Leonardo Jimenez
Lady Death Logo	Brian Pulido Lagarreta Mike Flippin

Please support your local comic shop. We recommend that you purchase and order our stuff through them. However, if that doesn't work out for any reason, send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to receive a catalog of available Chaos! Comics & stuff to: CHAOS! COMICS COLLECTORS CATALOG: 7645 E. Evans Rd, Suite 6, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. (No Stamp-No Catalog)

Lady Death ®: The Odyssey #1 April 1996. FIRST PRINTING. Published by Chaos! Comics. BRIAN PULIDO, President/Publisher. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 7645 E. Evans Rd, Suite 6, Scottsdale, AZ 85260. EVIL ERME and LADY DEATH are Registered Trademarks of BRIAN PULIDO. APR, Chaos! Comics, Chromator, Chaotic, Pagan and Sinsley, The Psychotic Button Trademark & Copyright 1995 Brian Pulido. APR. Any similarity to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the consent of BRIAN PULIDO. Publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited materials. Printed in Canada.

TO KNOW HER IS TO KNOW  
A WOMAN CURSED.

ONCE, THIS TOWERING, MAJESTIC GODDESS  
WAS THE QUEEN OF ALL THAT IS DEAD AND  
DYING. SHE LED CAMPAIGNS OF TERROR,  
STUCK FEAR IN ALL WHO CROSSED HER  
PATH, AND TRIUMPHED AGAINST LUCIFER,  
FATHER OF THE HELLBOY.

NO MATTER HOW LONG THE ODDS,  
HOW IMPOSSIBLE THE TASK, SHE  
WOULD MEET THE CHALLENGE HEAD  
ON AND DARE TO PREVAIL.

BUT NOW ALONE IN THE WISTFULNESS OF THE  
UNKNOWN, LADY DEATH FINDS HER  
CONSIDERABLE POWERS, HER FIGHTING SPIRIT  
HER VERY RESOLVE... WITHERING AWAY.

ALL HER STRUGGLES, ALL HER QUESTING,  
ALL HER VICTORIES HAVEN'T REWARDED  
HER WITH THE THINGS SHE BELIEVES  
SHE DESERVES MOST OF ALL: NONE.

LUCIFER CURSED  
ME NEVER TO RETURN  
TO EARTH UNTIL ALL THE  
LIVING WERE DEAD. BUT IN HIS  
ABSENCE, I WAS CURIOUS:  
WAS THE CURSE LIFTED?  
COULD I RETURN?

I APPROACHED  
THE NEXUS OF ALL  
THINGS - A GATEWAY  
TO THE INFINITE - BUT I WAS  
TRICKED BY PAGAN, THE INSIDIOUS  
COURT JESTER OF HELL. I WAS  
PUSHED THROUGH  
THE NEXUS AND  
CAME HERE.

THANKS TO  
MY EARTHLY EMBLARY  
EVIL ERNIE, I WALKED  
THE EARTH AGAIN,  
BUT THE CURSE! IT STOOD!  
WITH MY OWN WORDS  
I WAS EXILED BACK  
HERE, BACK TO  
THE UNKNOWN.

HOW LONG  
HAVE I DRIFTED HERE?  
I FEEL HELPLESS, A  
VICTIM TO CHANCES  
IN THE TIDE.

WILL  
I EVER FIND  
PEACE?

WILL  
I EVER FIND  
HOME?

Stop  
Believing from  
THE TRUTH.

You CHOSE  
your DESTINY.  
Now CLAIM IT!

TO THINK  
I WAS VICTORIOUS  
IN A WAR WITH LUCIFER  
MYSELF 400 YEARS  
OF TYRANNY AND  
MANIPULATION  
LATER.

I INHERITED  
TRUE HELL, BUT  
IT WAS NOT MY  
SANDWICH GRAYHOUND.  
IT WAS NOT MY SACRED PLACE!  
A WAR FOR DOMINANCE ERUPTED  
AMONG THE DENIZENS. BUT I  
COULD NOT SWAY THEM.  
I DON'T HAVE THE POWERS  
I ONCE HAD. I  
STILL DON'T.



WHAT?  
A VOICE?  
MERED?

HAVE  
I GONE  
MAD?

You  
CAN'T AVOID  
ME!

You  
were born  
for battle! You  
were bred to  
FIGHT!

NOW  
RIGHT!

HOW DARE  
THIS VOICE  
THIS  
THING INTERRUPT  
MY SOLITUDE!

There is  
NO TIME  
for ROMANTIC  
notions of  
peace!

Stop  
LANGUISHING  
in your past!

It's  
NO USE  
to you  
anymore!

IT  
APPEARS  
I HAVE LITTLE  
CHOICE!

LEAVE ME  
BE!! I WANT TO  
BE ALONE!

GO AWAY!

I'M TIRED  
OF CONFLICT!

You MUST  
escape your past,  
"Hope!"

You MUST  
go beyond  
it!

BEGONE!

Your thoughts  
cannot elude me!  
You THINK you  
want to escape your  
past, that you want  
to go home, but it's  
all a LIE!

GO  
AWAY!

You  
WALLOW  
in the past

It's a  
convenient way to  
avoid  
COMMITTING  
to your  
FUTURE!

KRAK

You  
have NO  
CHOICE!

A THOUSAND REALMS AWAY...

She IS NOT  
the fierce warrior  
we imagined.

HOW  
COULD I  
FORGET?! LUCIFER  
PERVADES  
MY EVERY  
THOUGHT.

I PROPELLED  
HIM INTO HEAVEN'S  
GATE! MY VICTORY  
WAS A MIRACLE!

The  
UNIVERSAL  
balance of power  
has SHIFTED!

Regardless,  
you REMOVED  
the GATHER of ALL  
evil from his  
throne!

THIS  
is the CHOSEN  
ONE!

Perhaps ALREADY  
we are DOOMED!

Do you  
recall your battle  
with Lucifer, the  
Destroyer of  
Paradise?

Your actions  
HERALDED  
the birth of a  
NEW ERA!

The  
JUDGMENT  
ERA!

GO AWAY!  
I DON'T WANT  
ANY OF THIS! I WANT  
TO GO HOME!

I WANT  
PEACE.

STOP  
LYING TO  
YOURSELF!

CONFRONT  
THE TRUTH!

YOU ARE  
AFRAID!

YOU  
CAN'T GO  
HOME!

ADMIT  
IT!

FOR  
400 YEARS,  
I'VE VANQUISHED ARMIES,  
I'VE DEFEATED DEMONS,  
DEMONS AND WARLOCKS  
I'VE BESTED BLOOD  
GODDESSES  
AND SORCERERS

I CONQUERED  
FOES ANY OTHER  
WOULD DREAD  
EVEN IMAGINING!

AND I'VE DONE  
THE IMPOSSIBLE!  
I'VE DEFEATED  
LUCIFER

BUT YES -  
I'LL ADMIT  
IT!

I AM  
AFRAID! MY  
DESTINY  
TERRIFIES  
ME!!!

Deep down  
you know  
YOU MUST  
KNOW -

The challenges  
you come for YOU  
will make all others  
you've faced PALE  
in comparison!

HOW IS  
THAT POSSIBLE?  
TELL ME!!! I'VE DEFEATED  
THE FATHER OF  
ALL EVIL!

THERE IS  
NO HIGHER  
CHALLENGE!

The  
JUDGMENT ERA  
of THE  
FALLEN ANGELS  
has begun  
Hope!

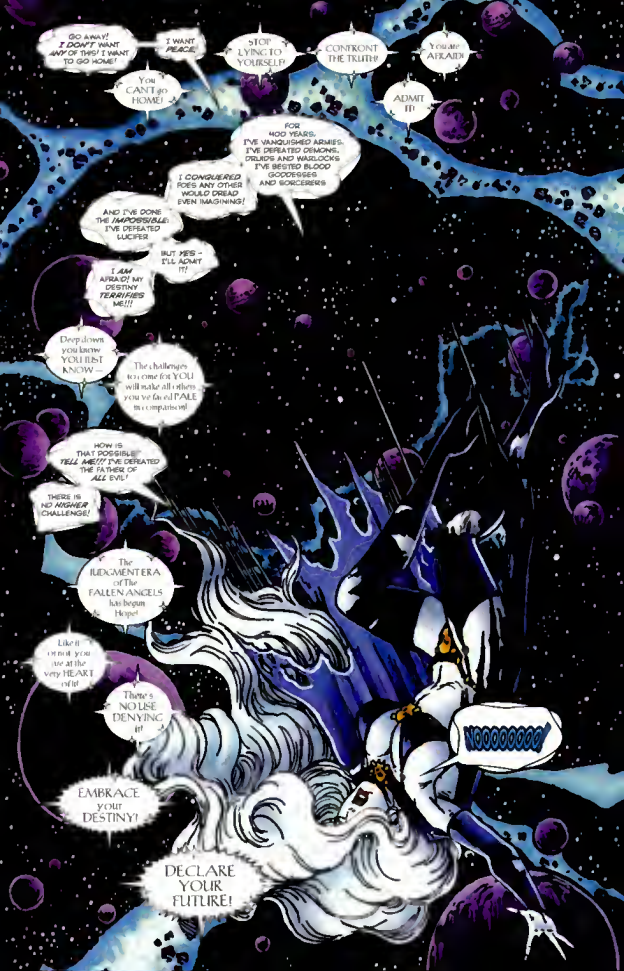
Like it  
or not you  
are at the  
very HEART  
of it!

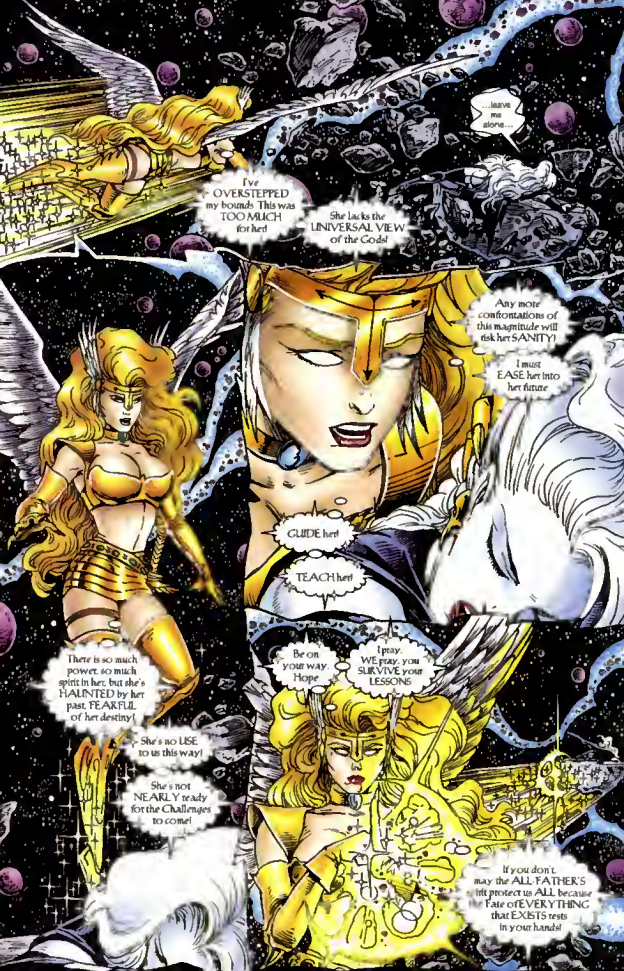
There's  
NO USE  
DENYING  
it!

EMBRACE  
your  
DESTINY!

DECLARE  
YOUR  
FUTURE!

NOOOOOOOO!





I've  
OVERSTEPPED  
my bounds This was  
TOO MUCH  
for her!

She lacks the  
UNIVERSAL VIEW  
of the Gods!

...leave  
me  
alone...

Any more  
confrontations of  
this magnitude will  
risk her SANITY!

I must  
EASE her into  
her future

GUIDE her!

TEACH her!

There is so much  
power, so much  
spirit in her, but she's  
HAUNTED by her  
past FEARFUL  
of her destiny!

She's no USE  
to us this way!

She's not  
NEARLY ready  
for the Challenges  
to come!

Be on  
your way.  
Hope

I pray.  
WE pray, you  
SURVIVE your  
LESSONS

If you don't  
may the ALL FATHER'S  
Int protect us ALL, because  
the Fate of EVERYTHING  
that EXISTS rests  
in your hands!

IN DAYS BEFORE TIME WAS RECORDED, A FEW THOUSAND REALMS AWAY FROM EARTH, THERE WAS A GREAT JUNGLE DOMAIN CALLED MANICORE.

ONE FATEFUL MORNING A DESPERATE FALLEN ANGEL, AGONY, ARRIVED -- HER LIFE FORCE DIMINISHING FROM DESPAIR.

SINCE THAT DAY SO LONG AGO, MANICORE HAS BEEN IMPRISONED.

TO WHISPER ITS FORMER NAMESAKE IS SACRILEGIOUS TO DARE EXPOSE THE JUNGLE IS CONSIDERED DESECRATION OF THE HOLY BASTILLE TUNDRA.

AGONY IS NOT A KIND DEITY, SHE FORBIDS DISTURBANCES OF ANY KIND.

UPON IMPACT, LADY DEATH BREAKS AGONY'S CARDINAL RULE.

WHO DARES INTERRUPT MY SUFFERING?

**KRAK-OOM**

HER PRESENCE ON THE TUNDRA HAS A STRONGLY MAGICAL EFFECT.

AFTER TIME UNFOLDED, A HINT OF THE JUNGLE MANICORE EMERGED ONCE MORE!

WH-WHERE AM I?

ADONY'S CATHEDRAL LAIR IS THE DARKEST, COLDEST  
POINT IN THE BASTILLE TUNDRA DOMINION.

AND FOR GOOD REASON SHE GUARDS SOULAIN  
MANCORE'S IMPRISONED LIFE SILENCE HERE.

SHE GUARDS IT LIKE HER  
LIFE DEPENDS ON IT.

ALL  
KNOW IT IS  
FORBIDDEN TO  
BREAK THE  
SILENCE.

WHO  
DARES?

WHO  
DARES TRESPASS  
IN MY GLORIOUS  
DOMINION?

SOULAIN  
SHOWS LIFE?  
IT CANNOT  
BE!

WHAT?!

WHO  
DARES WITHOUT  
MY HOLY  
PERMISSION?

I AM  
GOD HERE!

RISE,  
MY DEMONIC  
SOLDIER!

RISE  
AND LAY TO  
WASTE EVERYTHING  
YOU FIND!

AND IF  
IT IS ONE  
FROM ABOVE,  
BRING IT TO  
ME!

WHERE  
AM I NOW?

A JUNGLE  
BELOW, BUT  
ALL AROUND  
ME -- ICE  
AS FAR AS  
I CAN SEE!

I'M USED  
TO ASH AND CINDER,  
BUT THIS FEELING....  
I FEEL... COLD!

FIRST THE  
VOICE INVADES MY  
SOLITUDE - AND  
NOW THIS!

WHY AM  
I HERE?  
IS THE VOICE  
CONNECTED  
TO ALL THIS?

QUESTIONS  
TOO MANY  
QUESTIONS!

I'VE  
FOUGHT  
ENOUGH!

I DIDN'T  
CHOOSE  
TO START THE  
JUDGMENT ERA.  
I JUST WANTED  
TO SURVIVE!

KILL!

DEMONS  
GROWING OUT  
OF THE ICE!

IT APPEARS  
THE FATES ALLY  
AGAINST ME. WHEREVER  
I GO, THERE IS CONFLICT.  
WHEREVER I STEP,  
THERE IS  
STRUGGLE!

I HAVE  
NO USE FOR  
THE DESTINY CHOSEN  
FOR ME. I'VE EARNED  
REST! LET SOME  
OTHER FOOL DECIDE  
THE FUTURE!

REGARDLESS!  
ONE THING IS  
CLEAR FOR THE  
PRESENT -  
LIKE IT OR NOT --

IT IS TIME  
FOR WAR!

KILL HER!



COME DEMONS!

COME TRY TO SPILL MY BLOOD!

WHAT?! I CANNOT SWAIN MY SWORD DARKNESS!

DARK! IT ALL! WILL MY FULL STRENGTH EVER COME BACK? DID MY BATTLE WITH LUCIFER DEplete ME FOREVER?



ELEEELAGH

LOOK—THE GROUND BENEATH HER FEET! THE TUNDRA TURNS TO JUNGLE!

SACRILEGE!

IT IS FORBIDDEN

KILL HER! KILL THE DESECRATOR!



THOUGH THEY SPEAK IN A FOREIGN TONGUE, I UNDERSTAND THEM!

SACRED GROUND!

NOT IN MY VIEW! SACRED OR NOT, MY PRESENCE HERE IS NOT OF MY OWN CHOOSING!

SHRAACK



BROTHERS SHE BEARS THE SIGNS! SHE IS ONE FROM ABOVE!

OUR DARK GODDESS AGONY WARNED US OF THEIR COMING!

SRUK



ONES FROM ABOVE! GODDESS AGONY?

MORE PIECES OF THE PUZZLE!

UUGGGGAH



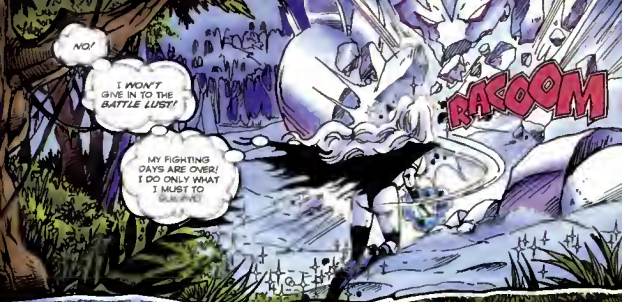
YOU DESIRE MY DEATH I CAN TASTE IT

I UNDERSTAND YOUR LONGINGS, CREATURE, I UNDERSTAND THEM WELL

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I DROVE A POP'S BLOOD

IT'S INTOXICATING!

FANH



NO!

I WON'T  
GIVE IN TO THE  
BATTLE LUST!

MY FIGHTING  
DAYS ARE OVER!  
I DO ONLY WHAT  
I MUST TO  
SURVIVE!

**BAKOOM**



THEY'VE  
MELTED AS  
QUICKLY AS  
THEY APPEARED.

BUT THEY  
WERE RIGHT! MY  
PRESENCE BRINGS FORTH  
THE HOT JUNGLE LOCKED  
UNDERNEATH!

THE ICE  
SMELLS OF DECAY.  
AND IT IS COLD.

FEARFULLY  
COLD! I'VE NEVER  
EXPERIENCED ANYTHING  
LIKE IT!



AS LADY DEATH USES HER ANGELIC/ARCANE POWERS  
TO WARM HERSELF, THE ICY LABYRINTH AROUND HER  
MAGICALLY THAWS, REVEALING MORE AND MORE OF  
THE PRIMEVAL JUNGLE

DAMN  
IT ALL!

LIKE IT  
OR NOT, AGAIN  
I AM THRUST  
INTO ACTION!

PERHAPS  
AGONY IS THE  
VOICE! IF SHE IS,  
I'LL MAKE HER  
REGRET EVER  
DISTURBING MY  
SOLITUDE!

I CAN'T  
EVEN LEVITATE! THAT  
WAS AMONG THE MOST  
RUDIMENTARY OF  
MY POWERS!

I'M REDUCED  
TO WALKING!

FOLLOW  
ME QUICKLY  
BEFORE AGONY  
COMES!

WHAT?  
SHE SPEAKS INTO  
MY MIND!

WHY  
SHOULD I  
TRUST YOU GIRL?  
PERHAPS YOU SIDE  
WITH THE DEMONS!  
OR AGONY  
HERSELF!

NO!  
NEVER!

YOU WERE  
SENT TO  
SAVE US!

WHY  
WOULD I SAVE  
YOU?

SO IT  
WOULD  
SEEM.

YOU  
ANSWERED  
OUR PRAYERS.  
YOU BRING LIFE  
BACK TO THE  
JUNGLE!

PLEASE!  
YOU MUST COME  
TO THE GATHERING  
BELOW!

DON'T  
ORDER ME,  
GIRL!

I'LL COME,  
BUT OF MY  
OWN ACCORD.

AND  
FOR MY OWN  
REASONS.

HOW I  
LOATHE THE  
GROUND!

IT IS  
WHERE MORTALS  
ARE CONDEMNED  
TO WALK!

IN THE ANCIENT, WESTERN REGION OF HELL LIES ANDROK, HOME TO PETTY CRIMINALS AND VAGABONDS.

AS LEGENDS GO, THIS VILLAGE OF IDLENESS AND SLOTH WAS BUILT UPON THE BODY OF A GREAT GRAND DUKE, WHOSE LOYALTY TO LUCIFER WAS UNWAVERING.

WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

NOONE CAN ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT ERA!

LONG, LONG AGO, A PROPHECY BLEW IN THE WIND. A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY WOULD COME: A JUDGMENT ERA IN HELL— AND BEYOND!

IT WOULD SIGNAL THE FINAL RECKONING FOR ALL THINGS!

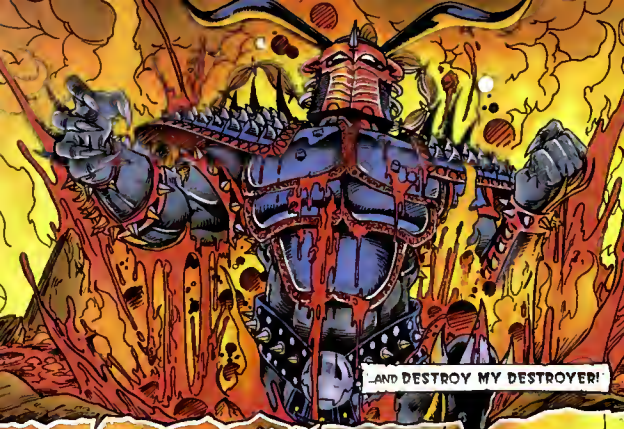
RUN!

AAAAA!

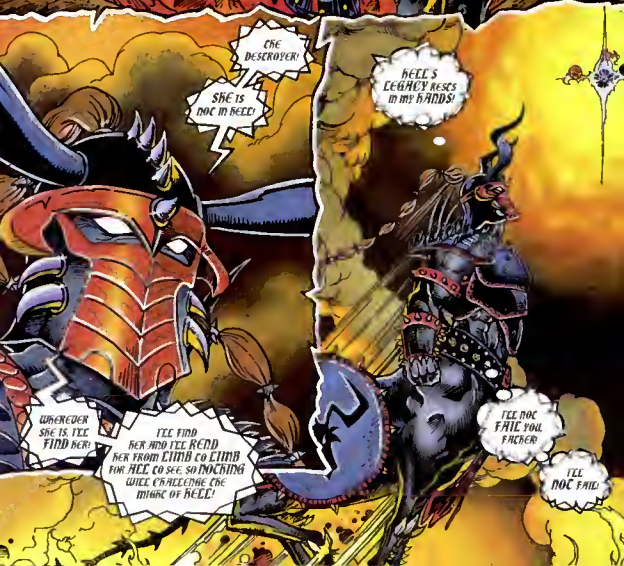
REALIZING THE VAST IMPLICATIONS, LUCIFER, THE FATHER OF ALL EVIL, MADE A PACT WITH HIS MOST LOYAL DUKE, ASTEROTH

SLEEP ASTEROTH AND TAKE PART OF MY POWER WITH YOU! HE SAID AND IF THE PROPHECY RINGS TRUE, AWAKEN...

KRA  
KOO



AND DESTROY MY DESTROYER!



THE  
DESTROYER!

SHE IS  
NOT IN HERE!

HELL'S  
LEGACY RESIDES  
IN MY HANDS!

WHEREVER  
SHE IS, I'LL  
FIND HER!

I'LL FIND  
HER AND I'LL REED  
HER FROM CLIMB TO CLIMB  
FOR HELL TO SEE SO NOTHING  
WILL CHALLENGE THE  
MIGHT OF HELL!

I'LL NOT  
FAIL YOU  
FUCKER!

I'LL  
NOT FAIL!

PANDEMONIUM!  
OUR PRAYERS ARE  
ANSWERED! HEAVEN HAS  
SENT AN ANGEL  
TO SAVE US!

HAVEN'T  
YOU COME TO  
DESTROY  
THE FALLEN  
ANGEL?

YOU  
THINK  
WE  
ARE  
ANGELS?  
HA HA!

TRUST ME  
CHILD, NOTHING  
COULD BE FURTHER  
FROM THE TRUTH!

WHAT  
FALLEN  
ANGEL?

SHE CALLS HERSELF AGONY,  
AND SHE NAMED HERSELF WELL.

SHE WAS DYING WHEN SHE CAME.

BUT SHE DISCOVERED SOULAIN,  
THE LIFE-FORCE OF OUR REALM,  
AND TOOK ITS POWER FOR HER OWN.

SHE KILLED THOUSANDS OF BUZZARDS TO SPREAD  
THROUGHOUT THE LAND. SHE SHOWED NO REMORSE -  
ONLY PLEASURE, FOR SHE WAS A BITTER BEING. NOT  
LONG AFTER, THE JUNGLE WAS NO MORE.

EACH NIGHT, WE HEAR HER BROOD.  
WE BELIEVE SHE IS FOREVER TIED TO  
SOULAIN. SHE CANNOT STRAY FAR FROM IT.

THEN SHE ENTRAPPED SOULAIN IN  
A PRISON OF HER OWN MAKING.

ANY WHO OPPOSE HER ARE KILLED.

WE ARE THE FINAL FEW.

WITH YOUR  
ANGELIC ENERGY,  
YOU CAN RESTORE LIFE TO  
SOULAIN AND FOREVER  
END US OF AGONY'S  
TYRANNY.

COUNTLESS GENERATIONS HAVE  
DIED FOR HER SUFFERING.

BUT WITH YOU, WE HAVE NONE!

SO AGONY  
IS A FALLEN  
ANGEL. HERE  
CURIOUS?

MY JOURNEY  
GROWS  
STRANGER  
STILL.

INSIDE HER CATHEDRAL LAIR, AGONY  
SENSES LADY DEATH'S APPROACH

YOU WILL  
HELP US. WON'T  
YOU?

I AM  
NOBODY'S  
SAVOR! FOR MOST  
I AM THE  
END!

BELIEVE THE  
ANGELIC ENERGY  
I HARBOR MAKES ME  
AN ANGEL! HOW RIDICULOUS!  
I ABSORBED ANGELIC  
ENERGY FROM MY  
MOTHER'S SPIRIT TO  
DEFEAT LUCIFER!

WHERE ARE  
YOU GOING?  
YOU ARE CURIOUS.  
AREN'T YOU?  
LET ME COME!

I WALK  
ALONE!

A BLIZZARD  
COMES. WITHOUT  
ME, YOU'LL NEVER  
FIND AGONY!

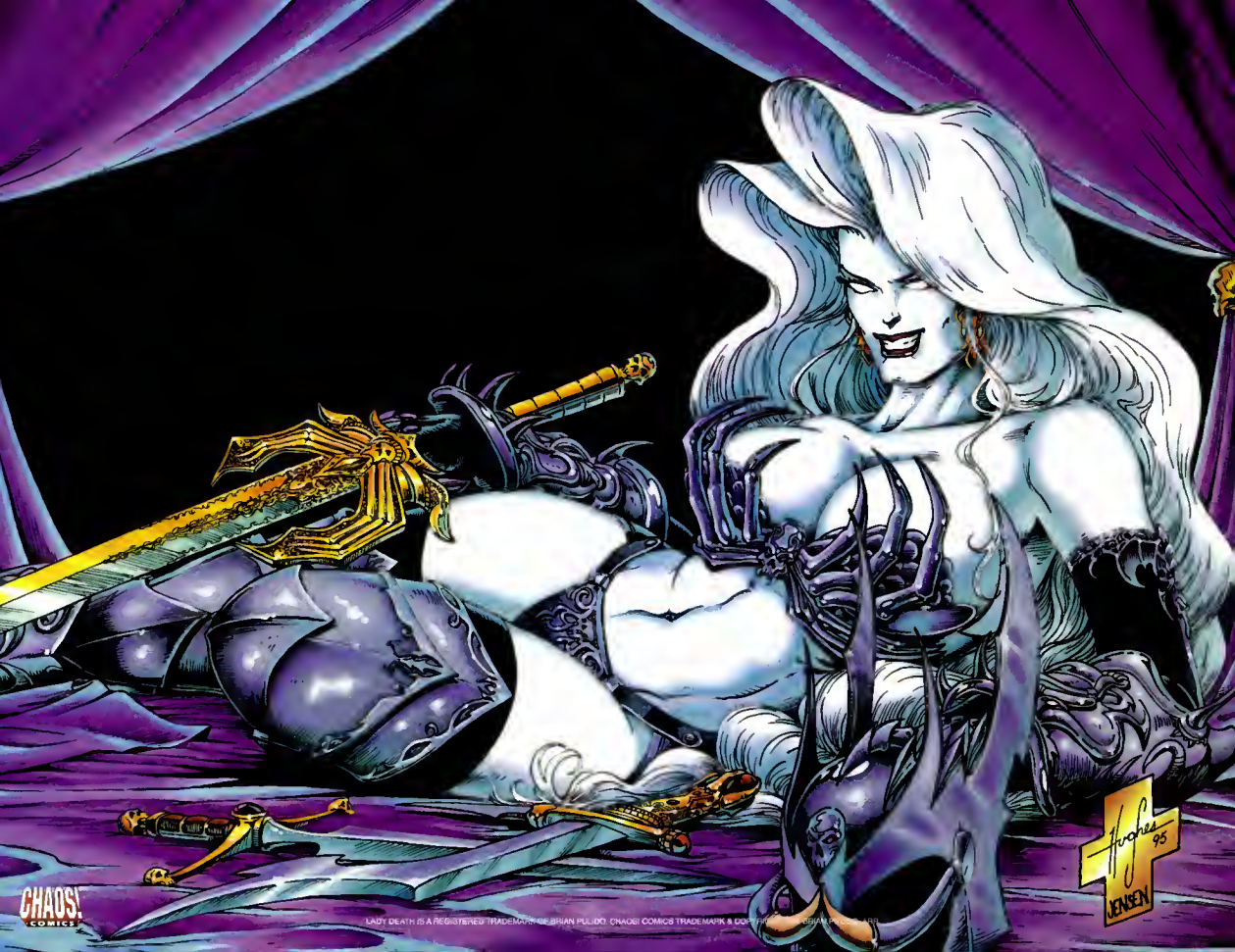
SUIT  
YOURSELF.

IT'S TIME  
I CONFRONTED  
THIS AGONY AND  
FOUND OUT  
EXACTLY WHY  
SHE BROUGHT  
ME HERE!

THIS IS  
MY REALM!

NOTHING  
ESCAPES MY  
SIGHT HERE!

I'LL NOT  
TOLERATE HEAVEN'S  
INTRUSION!



CHAOS!  
COMICS

LADY DEATH IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF BRIAN PULIDO. CHAOS! COMICS TRADEMARK & COPYRIGHT © 1995

Hooper  
95  
JENSEN

AGONY'S LAIR LIES  
AHEAD.

NONE HAVE  
SURVIVED BEYOND  
THESE STEPS WE  
TAKE. BEWARE

SAVE  
YOUR CONCERN,  
SAVAGE.

THE COLD  
IS UNBEARABLE!  
THESE FEELINGS OF...  
MORTALITY ARE SO  
FOREIGN TO ME.

IT'S  
AGONY!

INTRUDER!

BUT SHE  
BEARS THE  
BLOODLINE!

SHE DOES  
NOT RESEMBLE  
AN ANGEL!

I CAN  
SENSE IT! IT'S  
UNMISTAKABLE!

I DON'T COME  
REPRESENTING  
HEAVEN.

YOU  
DESECRATE  
MY HOLY LAND, YOU  
MURDER MY FAITHFUL  
SCIONS AND NOW  
YOU COME TO  
SLAY ME?

SO, HEAVEN  
CONSIDERS ME A  
FACTOR IN THE  
JUDGMENT ERA?

YOU  
BROUGHT  
ME HERE!  
WHY?!

BROUGHT  
YOU HERE?!  
NEVER!

DON'T TRY TO  
CONFUSE ME!  
YOUR BLOODLINE  
BETRAYS YOU!

**SHRAK!**

YOU ARE  
CRAZED! YOU  
ENSE ONLY WHAT  
YOU WANT TO

YES.  
THE BLOOD  
OF HEAVEN COURSES  
THROUGH MY  
VEINS...

BELOW.  
THE CATHEDRAL!  
INSIDE IS  
SOULAIN.

... BUT  
SO DOES THE  
BLOOD OF  
HELL!

... THEN  
WHO OR  
WHAT DID?

SHE  
DIDN'T BRING  
ME HERE! SHE'S  
NOT THE  
VOICE!

**SPLAQ**

**EERRA**

**ASSH**

I KNOW  
HOW YOUR KIND  
WORKS. YOU PRETEND  
TO BE SHINING  
GODS

IT'S FRIGID  
IN HERE!  
FREEZING!

THE TREE

I ADAPT  
I LEFT HEAVEN IN  
THE EXIGENCY OF THE  
ANGELS' LUCKLESS VISION  
WAS REDUCTIVE, YET ALMOST  
IMMEDIATELY, I REALIZED  
MY FOLLY

I TRIED  
TO RETURN THROUGH  
HEAVEN'S GATE, BUT THE  
SERAPHIM DENIED  
ME!

I WAS  
CAST OUT

BUT  
I WAS AMONG  
THE AERON, THE  
FINEST AS  
CREATED!

DAMN,  
SHE FLOODS THE  
TREE AND ITS GROWING  
COLDER BY THE  
SECOND

IF ONLY  
I HAD ALL MY  
STRENGTH!

DID THEY  
FORGIVE MY  
INDISCRETION?  
WAS I GIVEN  
ANOTHER  
CHANCE?

NO, I  
WAS ETERNALLY  
DAMNED!

I'VE ROTTED  
HERE! TRAPPED!  
UNABLE TO ESCAPE!  
FOR A MILLION NIGHTS  
AND MORE, I'VE BEEN  
HAUNTED BY MY  
IRREVOCABLE  
DECISION

IS IT NOT  
ENOUGH THAT I'M  
DENIED HEAVEN'S  
GRACE? YOU'LL DEBAR  
ME THIS REALM  
AS WELL?

I'LL MAKE  
YOU SUFFER AS  
I HAVE! FOR ALL  
ETERNITY!

YOU'LL  
BEG TO  
DIE!!!

HER BODY  
TENSING!  
CHOKING HER!  
SO COLD! MUST  
BLAST HER! NO!  
CAN'T WASTE THE  
BLAST!  
WEAKENING

FIGHT!  
MUST FIGHT!

WHY FIGHT?  
THAT'S WHAT  
SHE EXPECTS!



SO THIS  
IS A FALLEN  
ANGEL? I EXPECTED  
MORE. MORE  
POWER. MORE  
VISION

HOW  
COULD THIS  
PITIFUL CREATURE  
DETERMINE THE  
OUTCOME OF THE  
COSMOS?

! THE TREE!  
PLEASE, ANGEL!  
SAVE US!

NO!

SHE  
COULDN'T!  
THAT'S IT!

INSTEAD  
I'LL RELAX!

NOW I  
UNDERSTAND  
WHY I'M HERE

DAMN  
IT ALL!

HEAVEN  
IS A  
FARCE!

AND YOU  
ARE NOTHING  
BUT A MESSENGER  
FROM A TRAVESTY  
MASQUERADING AS A  
KINGDOM OF  
GLORY!

AAARRRGH!

I HAVE  
NO ALLIANCE.  
I TELL YOU!  
NOT HEAVEN.  
NOT HELL!

I AM  
DEATH. YOU  
HEAR ME?

LADY  
DEATH!

NOW TAKE  
MY NAME TO YOUR  
GRAVE!

SSSS

RRRAA



THE EFFECT IS VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUS  
AS LADY DEATH'S ANGELIC ENERGIES  
MAKE CONTACT WITH SOULAIN

LIFE SEEPS BACK INTO ITS TRUNK, ITS  
BRANCHES QUICKLY, THE ANGELIC ENERGY  
SPREADS THROUGH SOULAIN'S ROOTS AND  
BEYOND — TO THE JUNGLE, GIVING LIFE

THE FRIGID, DECAYING  
BASTILLE TUNDRA IS NO MORE

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EONS, AGONY'S DESPERATE  
HOLD ON MANICORE, IS SHATTERED!

AND LIFE IN  
MANICORE  
ABOUNDS!

NO!  
IT ISN'T  
FAIR!

IT  
ISN'T  
FAIR!

COULDN'T  
ESCAPE...

I ONLY  
WANTED TO  
GO...

...home...



YOU  
SAVED  
US!

HOW CAN WE  
THANK YOU?

I DON'T  
WANT YOUR  
THANKS!

AGONY WAS  
INSANE! SHE **COULDN'T**  
ESCAPE HER PAST. SHE WAS  
UNABLE TO MOVE ON. THIS ENTIRE  
REALM WAS A MANIFESTATION  
OF HER SUFFERING!

THAT'S WHY  
I WAS SENT HERE:  
TO LEARN A LESSON  
FROM AGONY.

EXHAUSTED...

HEAVEN  
ITSELF?

THE QUESTION  
IS, WHO?

SOMEONE OR  
SOMETHING IS TRYING  
TO **MANIPULATE** ME INTO  
CLAIMING MY DESTINY IN  
THE JUDGMENT ERA!

HOW...  
**REPUGNANT!**

TO ADD INSULT, I  
WAS **MANIPULATED**  
INTO AN ACT OF  
**HEROISM!**



DON'T  
MISTAKE MY  
INTENTIONS!

I REPLENISHED  
SOULAIN FOR  
SURVIVAL. MY  
OWN SURVIVAL!

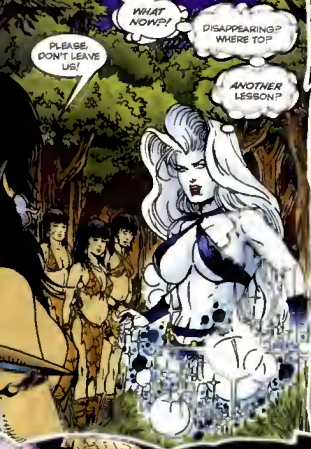
PLEASE!  
LET US REWARD  
YOUR  
GENEROSITY!

She **ISN'T**  
receptive!

KEEP  
YOUR TRINKETS!  
AND GET OUT  
OF MY SIGHT!

Must  
continue to  
try!

There's far **TOO**  
much at stake!





WELL, WELL!

LOOK WHAT WE  
GOT HERE!

QUITE A  
CATCH, EH!

SHE'LL MAKE  
A FINE  
SLAVE!!!

**NEXT: ENSLAVED!**